for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) for National Textile Corporation (NTC), 67 unviable and chronically sick mills have been closed under Industrial Disputes (I.D.) Act and 55,455 employees have gone for retirement under Modified Voluntary Retirement Scheme (MVRS). In Maharashtra State, 20 unviable mills have been closed and 17,471 employees have gone under MVRS.

(b) and (c) Government/NTC have identified 18 NTC mills for modernization through Joint Venture Route. The proposal for Joint Venture has been approved by the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) and Group of Ministers (GOM) as a part of Revival Scheme. NTC is in the process of entering into Joint Venture with private entrepreneurs for modernization and running of some of these mills.

Fibre policy for cotton and manmade fibre

1202. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Government propose to formulate comprehensive fibre policy for cotton and manmade fibre with a view to boost the textile and garment industry;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by when the policy will be framed;

(d) whether there is huge deficiency of skilled manpower in the textile industry; and

(e) if so, the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) to (c) An Action Plan for the growth of the Textiles and Garments was placed before the High Level Committee on Manufacturing (HLCM) for consideration and decision recently. It was decided to form an Expert Group by the Empowered Sub Committee (ESC) of the HLCM for the preparation of a long term Comprehensive Fibre Policy (Natural & Man-made) for steady availability of fibre.

(d) and (e) Considering the projected demand of 4 million trained manpower in the garment industry over the next 4-5 years, Ministry of Textiles has prepared a Scheme of Neighbourhood Apparel and Textiles Training Institutes for Job Assurance (NATIJA). The Scheme, which is presently under consideration of the Government, has been formulated for establishing a network of employment-linked training facilities in basic textiles and garment manufacturing technology.

Status of jute industry in the country

1203. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that jute industry in the country is in very bad shape and it is dying;

(b) whether it is not a fact that this industry needs more attention from Government for its survival; and